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199 Walnut

Cynanche Trachealis.

W. I. Drish

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Cynanche Trachealis, or Croup. -
An inflammation of the mucous membrane of the trachea and larynx has been denominated croup. The vessels of the part, in this disease, instead of throwing out an increased quantity of mucous, are excited so high as to produce coagulable lymph. -- Not only the trachea and larynx are affected in this disease, but the inflammation extends to the ramifications of the bronchia and lungs, from which, there is an exudation of a puriform nature. There is a peculiar sound attending inspiration in this disease - it is a sonorous wheezing, compared by some to the crowing of a cock; there is also a stridulous sound in coughing, and speaking - great difficulty in respiration, thirst, febrile symptoms, and some spasmodic affections of the parts involved -

The disease has been divided by some into two kinds; the primary or idiopathic. When it is seated primarily in the trachea, bronchia, and surface of the lungs; symptomatic when it occurs as the consequence of some previous disease such as Measles, Scarlatina &c. --

Diagnostics. Croup may be confounded with acute Asthma, but by the following symptoms we can generally distinguish them. In Croup there is seldom any remission, which generally occurs in Asthma: there is in Asthma very little cough: in croup the voice shrill and small, the pulse full and strong, urine high coloured. In Asthma the urine is limpid, the voice croaking. --

The inflammation in this disease must be peculiar, for there is generally a concretion on the surface of the Trachea which would be very common, if it were a consequence of

every inflammation of these parts. - That there is a Membrane formed in this inflammation, cannot be denied, for Dr Physick has presented the "Wistar Museum" with a specimen of the kind. The matter of which this substance is formed, possesses different properties from those of Mucous, or from that matter which is thrown out in common inflammations of the mucous membrane; and can only be accounted for as was by Dr Hunter, that is, it is not a secretion from the mucous glands, but that is thrown out by the exhalent arteries, similar to an effusion thrown out in inflammation of other internal mucous membranes - - -

The new membrane which is formed in Croup, is generally considered to be composed of nothing but coagulable lymph -

Croup sometimes prevails epidemically, yet

it is never contagious: some families are more liable to it than others,- a child having been attacked with it once, is more obnoxious to attacks of it afterwards, but they are not so severe in general. - -

Children from one to ten years of age appear to be most subject to it, yet those who are older are not exempt from it:- it seldom attacks persons after they arrive at the age of puberty-

Causes.- Cold is the cause which generally produces this disease, and it is, consequently, most frequent of occurrence in the Winter and Spring, when the atmosphere is loaded with moisture and the transition from heat to cold greatest - - -

A while before the attack comes on, the child appears drowsy, inactive and fretful, the eyes are suffused and heavy, there is a cough, attended with a peculiar shrill sound;

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

and exacerbations are these symptoms.--

Prognosis.- Croup is a very dangerous disease, and will sometimes destroy the child quickly by suffocation, either in a spasmodic affection of Glottis, or by a quantity of matter in the Ring of the Bronchia.- But when it terminates in health, the inflammation terminates by resolution, the spasms cease, respiration becomes more free, the expectoration becomes copious and easy, the voice assumes its natural sound, and the membrane that was formed on the Trachea is gradually dissolved.-

But the unfavourable symptoms are, considerable difficulty in breathing, great anxiety, frequent fits of coughing, no expectoration, violent fever, the pulse becoming irregular and intermitting.---

The duration of the disease is various; sometimes it terminates fatally in twenty four

[illegible] generally fatal, it is [illegible] the third or fourth day — [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] and [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] cured. [illegible] accidents de-
[illegible] within [illegible] would be highly culpable
in us. Yet the importance of this measure some
[illegible] attempts to ameliorate, and substitute
laudanum or tincture of opium in its stead,
and subsequently would be as apt to give
relief as venesection, but I think this was
merely an hypothesis not confirmed by subse-
quent experience, [illegible] there are but
few practitioners
who do not give the preference to bleeding
at the present day --
[illegible] and tried [illegible] the
[illegible] of [illegible] in the commencement of Croup,
[illegible] to be neglected, more especially
[illegible] bleeding; [illegible] by insuring this
[illegible] so far as to reduce internal [illegible]
generally, and on the surface of the [illegible],
so as to prevent the [illegible] from
growing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] many

to the disease, (whether it consist of an effusion of coagulable lymph or mucous) and thus obviate the adventitious membrane from forming, will be surmounting more than one half of the difficulty in the cure of this complaint; but it is only at the commencement of the attack that we can expect to accomplish this.----

After we have premised bleeding, both general and local, and the disease continues unabated, it will be necessary to apply a blister over the fauces or the throat, and a sponge should be kept warm thereon by dressing it with the simple ointment.----

Having taken these steps, it will be important in the next place to administer an emetic; and of these, the best are tartarized antimony, and ipecacuanha, in a dose agreeing with the age of the child and sufficient to

prevent copious vomiting, it will be found to give great relief by throwing off a quantity of ropy mucous. --

It will be beneficial to attend to position. The child will be more easy, and rest better, in an erect position; and it will also prevent suffocation. --

Sometimes in bad cases of the complaint the strictest attention to the regimen must be enforced on the nursing, and the bowels should be kept in a relaxed state by the frequent exhibition of lenitives. --

When the intestines are in an inactive state and bound up, the more active cathartics should be given, and for this purpose the submuriate of mercury or Calomel will be found an excellent medicine, either alone or in combination with other cathartics, such as jalap, rhubarb &c. in dose.

purse nature; in general it is necessary to make a positive decided effect on the bowels.-
The secretion of the pungative and passive, should be assisted by occasionally administering clysters.-
To determine the skin and produce diaphoresis, a solution of tartarized antimony, or small dose of ipecacuanha, given every two or three hours.---
It has been proposed to excite nausea, for the purpose of obtaining a more decided diaphoresis, and it may be beneficial by producing a relaxation of the trachea and larynx; but if given in smaller doses it will determine to the surface of the lungs, render the secretion more easy and copious, and it will also produce mild diaphoresis without disturbing the stomach---

The warm bath is highly recommended; and general experience appears it to be very salutary in its effects, by relaxing the system generally, and producing copious sweating:- The bath should be between ninety and one hundred degrees of Fahrenheit, - - - -

By the use of the means above enumerated, the progress of the disease can be generally arrested, if engaged during the first days; but if neglected, lost time and timing remedies will be, even to induce a shocking, that will reflect disgrace upon our character, and recognize death as the offspring of apathy and inertia, rather - - - How necessary then, is it for us to be prompt and decided, in the use of the measures recommended in this Pamphlet, lest the disease should not crush in its early stage, as as much

under the accidental of copious bleeding, cathartics and emetics, as most other inflammations —

There is generally in this disease throughout its course, a segment of mucous or lymph in the trachea, which if it were permitted to remain, would, on its adhering to the membrane; consequently, it will be highly necessary to administer an emetic once or twice a day to eradicate such a tendency, and for this purpose tartar emetic, or Dr Hooper's syrup, would be very appropriate, will be united in itself, all the properties of an emetic and purgative, and also be sufficient to the surface of the body — the dose is from ten drops to a teaspoonful, according to the age of the patient, and violence of symptoms.—

Digitalis has been recommended as a

used in the complaint, and it may be [illegible]
stimulants, and almost always to induce
an emetic action, and in this part to [illegible]
some as highly [illegible] effects: the use of
ipecacuanha is generally also highly [illegible]
according to circumstances.

It is also useful to inhale the vapour of either
mixed with warm water, to remove spasm
and increase the action. — The submuri-
ate of mercury, given in doses sufficient
to excite salivation freely, has a very salutary
effect, and some think it acts almost
specifically in this disease. —

Some have recommended the employment
of mercury so as to induce salivation, as
if croup were a disease of duration; but
it is very seldom the case in croup, that
it would not terminate fatally before the
salivation could be produced, if this remedy

cussed to the exclusion of others more instant in their operation. The justly celebrated Dr Rush recommended the submuriate of mercury in this disease, but it is generally believed now, that it is productive of no great utility, except, when it has an emetic or purgative effect. –

Dr Hamilton informs us, that he has never used the submuriate of mercury in any case, before the lividness of the lips came on: that it did not prove successful, his mode of administration was, to place the patient, in a bath of warm water about, ninety six degrees Fahrenheit, and give the calomel in doses of from one to five grains, prove natas, every hour or two, until the respiration became easy; I suspect however, that the warm bath was productive of more benefit than the mercury, in this case; there is no doubt,

but that mercury would be a good remedy in croup, if its mode of action could be established, previous to the commencement of the disease: and certainly it should be given so as to cooperate with other remedies, during an attack.

When the child is likely to be overcome by suffocation, we should administer a stimulating, such as strong tobacco snuff, and insufflate it into the nostrils by means of a quill, or give an emetic that is very prompt in its action, as the sulphate of zinc or copper, or inject a solution of tartar emetic into a vein.

When copious depletion by venæsection, both general and local, cupping and leeching, and blisters, have been premised, and the inflammatory action subdued, and the disease owing its existence to a spasmodic

affection of the parts, we may administer opium or laudanum, alone or combined with Ipecacuanha, in such doses as the age of the patient will admit---

The operation of Tracheotomy has been proposed.- When every other means have failed and this becomes necessary, it is recommended to make the incision between the thyroid and cricoid cartilages, in that membraneous space which exists there; and afterwards to introduce the handle of the knife, and turn it round, so as to separate the edges of the wound; but when it is necessary to make the opening more permanent, the incision should be a crucial one, and the four angles cut off; or a tube of silver or common quill cut so as to make a free opening through it, and its edges should be coated with sealing wax so as to prevent it from irritating the trachea;

to which tube or quill should be attached straps of linen, for the purpose of passing round the neck, and confining the tube in the orifice made in the trachea. - - -
But this operation very often fails, and in fact seldom succeeds, though performed under judicious circumstances, and by the most skillful surgeons. - - - -

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